

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055022

2

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 /052 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: EUR/IB:ALUKENS

APPROVED BY: EUR/LBLAINGEN

S/S:MTANNER

DIST: NSCE

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O 120039Z MAR 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055022

TOSEC 343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS

SUBJECT: USG PROTEST OVER GENERAL OTELO'S REMARKS
ABOUT AMB CARLUCCI'S SAFETY

REF: LISBON 1342

ATHENS FOR HARTMAN

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL AMB CARLUCCI PROTESTED TO GENERAL
OTELO DE CARVALHO IN LISBON AND SUCCEEDED IN EXTRACTING
PROMISE FROM HIM THAT HE HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS PRO-
TECTION.

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PAGE 02 STATE 055022

2. AT OUR END, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN

CALLED IN PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR THERMIDO AND ASKED HIM TO CONVEY ASAP TO GOP OUR CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF AMB CARLUCCI AND ALL MISSION PERSONNEL.

3. LOWENSTEIN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--IT IS A PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY GOVERNMENT THAT MAINTAINS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF THE DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO IT.

--THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL TO TAKE EVERY STEP NECESSARY TO BE SURE THAT NOTHING HAPPENS TO AMB CARLUCCI, OR TO THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY OR ITS OTHER PERSONNEL.

--THE UNITED STATES HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INVOLVEMENT NOR DID AMB CARLUCCI IN THE APPARENT COUP ATTEMPT IN PORTUGAL.

--WE DEEPLY DISTURBED BY OTELO'S ALLEGATIONS ABOUT AMB CARLUCCI'S PAST WHICH ARE COMPLETELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. THE FACT THAT OTELO IS CHIEF OF SECURITY IS IN ITSELF EVEN MORE DISTURBING.

4. THEMIDO SAID HE REALIZED GRAVITY OF SITUATION AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY COMMUNICATE LOWENSTEIN'S POINTS TO LISBON. THEMIDO HAD NO DOUBT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD ASSURE AMBASSADOR'S PROTECTION SINCE IT WAS IN PORTUGUESE TRADITION TO ASSURE SAFETY OF DIPLOMATS. NONETHELESS, HE NOTED THIS WAS REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION. THEMIDO HAD JUST RECEIVED CIRCULAR SENT TO ALL PORTUGUESE EMBASSIES FROM COSTA GOMES STATING THAT SITUATION WAS IN HAND BUT LISTING NAMES OF SOME THIRTY INVOLVED IN COUP ATTEMPT, HEADED BY SPINOLA.

5. FYI -- AMB CARLUCCI HAS ADVISED US THAT HE RELEASED FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO LISBON PRESS (NOT SENT REFTEL) WHICH SAID FOLLOWING: "I HAVE SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO OTELO AND I AM CONVINCED THAT HE AND GOP WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PRESERVE MY SAFETY." WE INTEND INFORM PRESS OF ACTION WE HAVE TAKEN HERE. INGERSOLL
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PAGE 03 STATE 055022

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS CONFERENCES, PERSONNEL SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, TOSEC 343
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE055022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/IB:ALUKENS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750085-0998
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750358/aaaabzrz.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 1342
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG PROTEST OVER GENERAL OTELO'S REMARKS ABOUT AMB CARLUCCI'S SAFETY
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, US, PO
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006